

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 9 and 17 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A device for routing junk email, comprising:

a mail address extracting unit extracting a mail address indicating a destination from received email;

a storing unit registering a plurality of processing methods available for processing the received email and corresponding destination mail addresses or destination address patterns; and

a mail processing unit matching the mail address indicating the destination of the received email with one of the corresponding destination mail addresses or destination address patterns registered in said storing unit, and processing the received email based on a processing method obtained as a result of the matching, including sending a delivery-error email message back to a sender of the received email stating that no receiver has been found at the destination of the received email when a character string in the mail address matches a predetermined character string designated for the destination.

2. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a specifying unit to specify use of one of the processing methods for email having a particular property.

3. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a unit to interpret an encrypted processing method for use as the processing method.

Claims 4-8 (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method for routing junk emails, comprising:
extracting a mail address indicating a destination from received email;

registering a plurality of processing methods available for processing the received email and corresponding destination mail addresses or address patterns; and

matching the mail address indicating the destination of the received email with one of the corresponding the destination mail addresses or the destination address patterns registered previously; and

processing the received email based on a processing method obtained as a result of the matching, including sending a delivery-error email message back to a sender of the received email stating that no receiver has been found at the destination of the received email when a character string in the mail address matches a predetermined character string designated for the destination.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising specifying use of one of the processing methods for email having a particular property.

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising interpreting an encrypted processing method for use as the processing method.

Claims 12-16 (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to perform a process, said process comprising:

extracting a mail address indicating a destination from received email;

registering a plurality of processing methods available for processing the received email and corresponding destination mail addresses or destination address patterns; and

matching the mail address indicating the destination of the received email with one of the corresponding the destination mail addresses or the destination address patterns registered previously; and

processing the received email based on a processing method obtained as a result of the matching, including sending a delivery-error email message back to a sender of the received email stating that no receiver has been found at the destination of the received email when a character string in the mail address matches a predetermined character string designated for the destination.

18. (cancelled)